



February 25, 2016

Zoolander 2



You all know how it is with sequels. With rare exceptions such as *The Godfather 2*, the part II is never as good as the first. And so it is with *Zoolander 2*. But while this is the case here, if you are a fan of Ben Stiller and the rest of the cast, then go—there is enough there to satisfy a matinee outing. I think the problem is that Stiller waited too long. There is a whole generation of kids who might see *Zoolander* today that didn't see the first one. Even back then, the original developed more of a word of mouth following. But I like the character he created and I think he tried, maybe too hard to re-invent or re-create Derek Zoolander.

The parts that work involve Stiller and Owen Wilson and some of the scenes with Will Ferrell. The overweight son storyline was not funny or necessary although the kid playing him was good. The

cameos by fashion icons notwithstanding, I think it could have been better if he had just stuck to the original goal of poking fun at fashion's world without trying to make other statements about the challenges of parenthood. The idea of a fashion police was clever and the way they abused Justin Bieber was silly fun. And Penelope Cruz is always a treat.



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The true highlight of *Zoolander 2*, oddly enough, comes in the form of androgynous Benedict Cumberbatch. He was a riot. So, if you are looking for some harmless, mindless re-treading of some memorable characters, then this is the sequel for you. I laughed my fair share of times at some of the over the top tumbles, but if they had cut out a few minutes of plot and focused more on what Derek Zoolander does best, it would have earned higher ratings across the board. Back in 2001, the year of the first *Zoolander*, the movie was described as a deliberately dumb comedy that works. *Zoolander 2* is a deliberately dumber movie that works sometimes. The box office has shown that. But you can always support his efforts.

I don't know if Stiller has the willingness to go out on the limb again and shoot for a deliberately dumbest third walk down the runway, but if he does, I will be there because I love blue steel and magnum. I give *Zoolander 2*, three Gold Lame tickets.

